



February 2, 2006

**TechNews** is a guide to share information regarding deadlines, events and software version release dates. The intended audiences are PCHA and FPA-PM application users. New FPA updates, changes and work arounds to PCHA, FPA-PM and BDD are listed below. Web site links relative to the software updates are also highlighted.

Visit the FPA home page (<http://www.fpa.nifc.gov/>) for the redesigned and reorganized User Guides for FPA-PM and BDD.

**2006 Spring FPA-PM Training Dates:**

- April 3-7      NCTC      Shepherdstown, WV (session limited to 24 students)
- May 8-12      NIFC      Boise, ID
- May 22-26      NIFC      Boise, ID (tentative date if needed)

**FTP Sites and Storage:**

**Please note:** FTP sites should be used for large file transfer only. The agency FTP sites are “way/weigh” stations only. They are not intended for long-term storage. The site currently used by the FPU is close to crashing. If this happens you are likely to lose some or all of the files on the site. To transfer large FPA related files: place them on the FTP site, contact the individual receiving them, and please remove them as soon as the transfer has been completed. Thank You.

**New FPA-PM Features:** The latest version of PM has a "bulk" reporting function and the resulting report is zipped. Apparently some older versions of WinZip will not unzip the file correctly. So far as we can determine, PKZIP and the built-in unzip function in Windows XP Professional unzip the file correctly.

**Help Desk Calls:** ICG recognizes that many FPUs will be working after normal business hours and during weekends in order to meet the February 15 deadline. The Systems Support Desk is normally staffed weekdays from 0730-1700 Mountain Time. Calls after 1700 and on weekends are answered by machine, and the recorded message provides a duty officer phone number. If the FPU has a technical problem that can't wait for resolution during normal business hours, they may call the Help Desk duty officer. If the duty officer cannot answer the question, ICG and IBM will have someone on duty to support problem solving. Please provide the Help Desk with the caller's name, contact information, description of the problem, and the FPU identification number (i.e. SA\_AR\_001).

**BDD Support Items:** The BDD OnDemand Tutorial has been updated to reflect recent changes in the software. There is also an updated BDD User Guide available on line.

**BDD procedural questions:** For procedural or agency-specific guidance for BDD, the FPU should go to their Regional/State Office planner for direction before calling the Help Desk. The Help Desk will still help with technical questions.

**Agency-Specific BDD Guidance:** We are pulling together all the agency guidance. When that information is collected it will be posted on the FPA homepage. Visit often.

**Units available in BDD:** A unit must show as a budgeted participant in FPA-PM to be available for a budget request in BDD. BDD will go to the submitted dataset and “read” the FPU participant list. If there is no submitted dataset, BDD looks at any completed dataset, and if there are none completed, it will look at a working dataset. In summary, a unit must show as budgeted in the FPU participant list in PM, even if PM is not generating a preparedness budget for that unit, to be available as an owner for budget requests in BDD.

**FPA-PM Dataset Submissions:** Please be sure to submit the Full Range curve as well as the Budget Range Curve. The Full Range Curve is used as supporting data and there must be one for each Budget Curve submitted.

**Weighting Worksheets:** All FPU’s must submit their weighting worksheet as an email attachment sent to the following address: [fa\\_fpa@nifc.blm.gov](mailto:fa_fpa@nifc.blm.gov). So far we have nearly 60 FPUs submitting but only 3 weighting spreadsheets submitted.

**Latest Version of BDD:** A new version of BDD (Version 1.2) is to be released on February 6. Most of the changes in this version are behind the scenes and do not affect the user. There is, however, one exception for FPU teams. An Exclude button is available. It operates like this: if an item from PM is brought over, for example a dozer, and the FPU does not need or want it, it can be excluded by clicking the radio button next to the item, and then clicking the Exclude button. The displayed list will continue to show the resource but it will be marked with a red PMX, instead of the green PM in the status column, and will not be counted in the budget total. This allows the user to then add in BDD a different resource, for example an engine. Be sure to follow your agency specific guidance when considering use of the Exclude feature.

**Reminder:** Please note the primary contacts for each geographic area; the list is in the table below:

Alaska	Sue Weber	208-947-3770
California		
Northwest	Ed Delaney	208-947-3752
Northern Rockies		
Rocky Mountain	Jerry Barnes	208-947-3748
Southwest	J.R. Epps	208-947-3762
Great Basin		
Southern	Cal Gale	208-947-3764
Eastern		